

93 mechanism is provided for said wheels to steer the apparatus or cradle during its maneuvers.

94 12. (New) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said wheels are carried by said means to raise and lower said main frame.

Remarks ..

The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies therefrom. Claim 11 was determined to be indefinite by the International Preliminary Examination Authority and consequently has been deleted from the application.

All of the claims remaining in the application, namely claims 1-10 and the subject matter of new claim 12, were found to be novel, include an inventive step, and to be industrially applicable, in the International Preliminary Examination Report. However, should the Examiner determine that additional amendments are necessary in the application, he/she is encouraged to contact the undersigned Agent for Applicant.

In the event the Examiner has questions regarding this amendment or during the course of the examination and/or allowance of the application, he/she is invited to contact the undersigned agent for applicant by telephone at (412) 380-0725, if necessary to resolve any remaining questions or issues by interview and/or Examiner's Amendment as to any matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix A

Abstract

A container handling apparatus or cradle (10) is disclosed and which[,] includes a main frame (11) adapted to be moved laterally from one side of a container (C) and over the container. Rams (19) are used to raise and lower the main frame to raise and lower the container suspended therefrom. Wheels (21) forming part of [said] the apparatus or cradle, and positioned at the lower ends of the rams, are provided to move it around[,and the]. The apparatus or cradle also includes members (22) for engagement by the tines of a fork lift truck to also allow the apparatus or cradle to be moved around.

1. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle, including a main frame adapted to be moved laterally from one side of a container and over said container, means to raise and lower said main frame to raise and lower a container suspended therefrom, and means to engage the top and/or bottom of said container to attach said container to said frame.

2. A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein means are provided to allow said apparatus or cradle to be moved around.

3. A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the means to allow said apparatus or cradle to be moved around are ground engaging wheels forming part of said apparatus or cradle.

4. A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus or cradle includes means for engagement by the tines of a fork lift truck to allow said apparatus or cradle to be moved around.

5. A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 1, wherein wheels forming part of said apparatus or cradle are provided to move it around, and wherein said apparatus or cradle also includes means for engagement by the tines of a fork lift truck to allow said apparatus or cradle to be moved around.

6. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 3 [or 5], wherein said wheels are carried by said means to raise and lower said main frame.

7. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, wherein said means to raise and lower said main frame are rams carried by said main frame.

8. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] Claim 1, wherein the means to raise and lower said main frame at least on one side of said apparatus or cradle are mounted on means coupled to said apparatus or cradle to allow said apparatus or cradle to be moved relative thereto, and means are provided to allow said relative movement.

9. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims when dependent on 3] Claim 3, wherein said wheels are self-propelled.

10. (Amended) A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 9, wherein an operator controlled steering mechanism is provided for said wheels to steer the apparatus [of] or cradle during its [manoeuvres] maneuvers.

11. {Deleted}

12. A container handling apparatus or cradle as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said wheels are carried by said means to raise and lower said main frame.